**Writing History Essay Tips**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Things to Do | Things to Avoid |
| * Critique the question to understand what is being asked of you | * **Answer based on a few key words, i.e. WW I or Hitler** |
| * Make analysis claims | * **Sweeping generalizations** |
| * Use relevant HK to support claims | * **One-off pieces of evidence, i.e 1 HK to support a thematic factor, or no evidence to support claim** |
| * Be specific with evidence, i.e. use ‘petty bourgeoisie’ instead of ‘people’ | * **Assume the reader has prior knowledge, i.e don’t simply state ‘5-Year Plan’ identify it as industrialization** |
| * Consider multiple interpretations, i.e. responsibility for causing WW I (need not be historiography) | * **Metaphors, i.e. ‘put on the map’** |
| * Identify & use relevant HK, evidence that addresses what the question want you to do | * **Long introductions; go right to the answer unlike in a formal essay that requires a good intro** |
| * Be comprehensive, i.e. effects of WW I include more than Germany and/or Europe | * **Information beyond the chronological parameters of a question, i.e. info on rise of leader when questions asks for rule** |
| * Identify cause/effect, themes, significant factors | * **Rely on historiographical terms as substitute for demonstrated understanding, i.e. revisionist** |
| * Use thematic structure & integrate HK in thematic manner | * **New information in last paragraph** |